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volume of moving air. By this method of application of the fan there is no disturbance of the "thermo-neural" equilibrium of the body, and the writer has thus enjoyed the luxury of a cool bed without stint, in the hottest weather, without any evil effects.

It is the hope that others may profit by the above suggestion, that shall serve as an apology for this communication.

T. G. DABNEY

CLARKSDALE, MISS.,  
August 13, 1911

#### BLANDING'S TURTLE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mr. Howe's note in SCIENCE of September 1, reporting the capture of Blanding's turtle in Massachusetts, reminds me that I should make a note of the introduction of this turtle in Orange County, New York.

In 1909 I placed three pairs of Blanding's turtle (*Emys blandingi*) and three pairs of the map turtle (*Malacoclemmys geographica*) in Little Long Pond, near Southfields, Orange County. Some naturalist may discover them by and by, and it is desirable that a record be made of their introduction. Both species were collected in Erie County, Ohio.

C. H. TOWNSEND

NEW YORK AQUARIUM

#### QUOTATIONS

##### MEDICAL PRACTISE IN GREAT BRITAIN

As every one knows, the lines of work pursued by medical men vary greatly in different cases. Of all medical students a large proportion probably hope to develop into consultants or specialists, but sooner or later they learn that it is only to the few that a career of this kind is practically open. Even after a brilliant studentship success involves years of weary waiting, during which not even a bare living is made from practise; and, in fact, only those who have private means can afford, as a rule, to wait. Moreover, in every case the result is extremely uncertain, and one late outcome of legislation now in progress may be restriction of the field open to consultants and specialists of independent mind.

Despite, therefore, the apparent wealth of choice, the average newly qualified man has to elect between private general or family practise and an official career. Most men necessarily choose the former, if only for the reason that the number of posts in the public services is very limited. It is the more unfortunate, therefore, that the prospects of private practise are inferior to what they used to be. Complaints of lessened incomes and increased expenses began, indeed to come in a few years ago in such numbers that the subject was specially investigated by this *Journal*, and the results recorded in two articles on "The Financial Prospects of Medicine," which appeared in the *British Medical Journal* for June 12 and July 17, 1909. The net outcome of those articles was to prove that not only was the number of possible patients less, but each one of those that remained needed less medical attendance than formerly, especially for the zymotic diseases, which used to furnish so much work. In this connection must be mentioned the decline in the birth-rate, which not only affects the medical men of this generation, but must seriously influence the prospects of those who may succeed them. The counter-prescribing by chemists, the enormous sale of quack remedies, the growth of badly-paid club practise and of hospital abuse, have all taken away from medical men former paying patients. At the same time the State has from time to time thrown sundry unpaid duties on the shoulders of medical men.

The state has no conscience, but individual members of the public often seem, in their dealings with medical men, to have very little. The newly-qualified practitioner often thinks he is making a practise quickly, judging by the number of patients that come to his surgery, but too often he is disillusioned when he sends out his bills. If he press for payment before he is well established, the growth in his practise soon ceases, and, what is still more irritating, the very patients who had seemed to regard him as an angel of mercy not infrequently spread charges of incompetence or